

Focus on Swalwell

Issue 159
Autumn
2021

Find us on Facebook: Focus on NE16

Community Centre News



Swalwell Community Centre opened in 1962 and has been at the heart of our community ever since.

The Centre has been run by a dedicated team of local volunteers since Gateshead Council gave up running all community centres in the Borough in 2015.

Without this group of Trustees, the centre would have closed in 2015 - and they have done a fantastic job of keeping the centre available for our community - for everyone who uses the centre on a daily basis.

Update

Following a period of closure during the pandemic, Swalwell Community Centre is open again for business!

Since last year, the centre is now being run by a new team of local volunteers and management committee of Trustees.

This includes the day to day running of the centre including opening, closing and cleaning of the building together with many administrative tasks such as managing utilities, CCTV and looking after bookings.

If you would like to get involved and help your local community centre, please contact one of the Focus Team, who are all members of the Trustee team.

Facilities

There is a large hall with a capacity of 180 adults, next to the main hall there is a side room with a fold-away wall, this can create separate usable space with table and chairs if needed. The main hall also has a stage which can be utilised as necessary. A separate activity room is located at the end of the centre behind the stage.

The centre is equipped with a small kitchen which includes a hot water boiler, an electric cooker, microwave and under counter fridge/freezer as well as small sink with running hot and cold water.

Male and female toilet facilities include a separate accessible toilet and there are baby changing facilities.

The centre also has disabled access via the car park to the right-hand side entrance of the property.

If you would like to use centre for your reoccurring activities or a one-off personal family event such as an anniversary celebration or birthday party, please do get in touch via telephone : **0191 488 4221**.

Regular activities

Get involved in our regular re-occurring activities:

Lite Bite – Mondays 11:00 to 13:00

Dancersice – Mondays 11:00 to 12:00 (Fitness through exercise, movement and dance, aimed at over 50's audience)

Slimming World – Wednesdays 18:00 to 20:00

Mental Health Awareness and Well-being drop-in sessions – Thursdays 11:00 to 12:30

Pre-School Stay and Play – Thursdays 13:00 to 14:30

Yogatri – Fitness via Yoga and Pilates – Fridays 9:30 to 10:30

Line dance – Fitness via Dance – Fridays 12:30 to 14:00

Rabbit club – 1st Saturday of the Month – 10:00 to 16:00

Find updated information via Facebook:

Swalwell Community Centre 2021

Wreaths laid for Remembrance Day.



Cllr Sonya Hawkins laid a wreath on behalf of Swalwell residents on Sunday 14th December for Remembrance Day.

The event was well attended and many other wreaths were also laid by the community groups and businesses of Swalwell.

Autumn Survey for Swalwell



We are currently carrying out an **Autumn Survey**.

This is to collect resident's views, so that we can focus on the things that matter to you!

Surveys have been included with this Focus, so please do complete one to have your say.

Please contact one of the Focus Team if you need extra copies and we will send them to you.

Christmas tree

Good news!

Your ward councillors have worked with Swalwell Community Group and the council's Community Fund to ensure that we have sufficient funding for a Christmas tree this year.

However, sadly due to Council pandemic restrictions, we are unable to have a switch-on event.



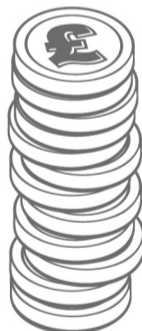
Council cash mountain continues to grow

At the Council budget meeting last February, Gateshead Lib Dem councillors argued that Council Tax should be frozen to give council tax payers a break. After all, Gateshead has the highest level of Council tax of any Metropolitan Council in England.

Chris Ord said "Lib Dems argued that just under £5m should be used instead from Gateshead's £41m reserve."

Figures reported to the Council's Cabinet in the summer showed that Gateshead's total usable reserves have now grown from £41m in April 2020 to £48m in March 2021.

That's a rise of £7million.



Bus Changes



Following a reduction in passengers as a result of the pandemic, Go North East have introduced a number of service changes, which came into effect during September 2021. These are:

- **97** - continues to run every 15 minutes during the day and every 30 minutes after 6pm, but has reverted back to terminating at the Metro Centre with no follow on journeys to Newcastle.
- **M6, M7 and M8** services have all been withdrawn.
- **643** - Following intervention from your Whickham North councillors the M8 has been replaced by the reintroduction of the 643 running a slightly different route to what the previous service offered. The 643 now starts at Metro Centre Asda, serves Metro Centre Interchange, Lambton Avenue, Whickham Front Street, Fellside Road, Broadway, Burnhouse Lane and Hole Lane, terminating at Sunnyside Front Street. This service only runs until mid afternoon in line with the service that was previously offered by the M7. Your ward councillors have also made representations to Go North East about the short timetable on this service which is proving to be inconvenient for a number of residents.
- **6** - continues to serve Watergate Estate (Monday to Saturday daytime) and now serves Burnopfield, Lintz Estate, Tantobie and Tanfield Lea, Stanley and Lanchester.
- **X30/X31** - now running every 20 minutes to Stanley but is no longer extended to Consett once an hour.

Surgeries:

Your ward councillors are continuing to run virtual surgeries for the moment.

Every 4th Saturday of the month
10am - 11am

Join via Google Meet:
meet.google.com/ynm-zpue-rar

or by phone:
020 3937 1322 PIN: 282 579 909#

If you need help to log in just give one of the team a call.



• Between Peter, Sonya & Chris they have 55 years experience of being a ward councillor and are always available to help if you need them.



Write to the team or call them:

Peter Craig
73 Whaggs Lane NE16 4PQ
Tel. 488 0787

Sonya Hawkins
50 Kingsley Place NE16 4BQ
Tel. 422 2206

Chris Ord
35 Fellside Road NE16 4JR
Tel. 488 2545